

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT**

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**2011 FACT SHEET  
 HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

**HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)**

Established in 1981, HEAP is a federally funded program that helps low-income households pay their energy bill. Assistance is in the form of a dual or single party warrant or a direct payment to a utility company on behalf of an eligible applicant. Eligibility is based on the household's total monthly income, which cannot exceed the HEAP income guidelines listed below. Because of significant funding cuts, the federal government enacted a law requiring that states target households with low-incomes and high energy costs, taking into consideration households with elderly and disabled persons, and children under six. This means there could be households that received assistance in the past and will no longer receive assistance because they fall into a low priority group and are not considered among the neediest of the needy. The amount of assistance is based on the number of persons in the household, total household income, the cost of energy within the county the household resides, and funding availability. HEAP provides one payment per program year. The statewide maximum payment is \$483, the minimum payment is \$122, and the average statewide payment is \$258.14. Under most circumstances, it takes approximately six weeks to process an application and pay the applicant. However, an incomplete/incorrect application will take additional time to process. Persons living in board-and-care facilities, nursing or convalescent homes, or in jail or prison, are not eligible for HEAP.

The local community services agencies are responsible for processing applications and the Department of Community Services and Development (CSD) is responsible for issuing HEAP payments. To find out how to apply for HEAP, call 1-866-675-6623.

Utility companies throughout the state offer reduced rate programs. Customers should contact their utility company to find out if they offer such a program and to request an application.

<b>ASSISTANCE PROGRAM INCOME GUIDELINES (Rev. 12/10)</b>		
<b>HEAP (valid through 12/31/11)</b>		
<b>Size of Household</b>	<b>Monthly</b>	<b>Annual</b>
1	\$2,072.28	\$24,867.44
2	\$2,709.91	\$32,518.96
3	\$3,347.54	\$40,170.48
4	\$3,985.16	\$47,822.00
5	\$4,622.79	\$55,473.52
6	\$5,260.42	\$63,125.04
7	\$5,379.97	\$64,559.70
8	\$5,499.53	\$65,994.36
9	\$5,619.08	\$67,429.02
10	\$5,738.64	\$68,863.68

**NOTE:** Income amounts for family sizes greater than six persons were determined based on the following calculation:  
 Add 3% to 132% for each additional family member, multiply the new percentage by \$47,822.00, and divide by 12.  
 Example: household size of 7: 132% + 3% = 135% x \$47,822.00 = \$64,559.70 / 12 = \$5,379.97 per month.